

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-28 and 33-36 for being drawn to the non-elected invention.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. – 28. Cancelled.

29. (Original) A method of cementing a borehole, comprising:
extending a drill string into the earth to form the borehole, the drill string including an earth removal member having at least one fluid passage therethrough, the earth removal member operatively connected to a lower end of the drill string;
drilling the borehole to a desired location using a drilling mud passing through the at least one fluid passage;
providing at least one secondary fluid passage between the interior of the drill string and the borehole; and
directing a physically alterable bonding material into an annulus between the drill string and the borehole through the at least one secondary fluid passage.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising flowing a physically alterable bonding material through the drill string and into an annulus between the drill string and the borehole prior to directing the physically alterable bonding material into the annulus between the drill string and the borehole through the at least one secondary fluid passage.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein opening the at least one secondary fluid passage, comprises:
providing a barrier across the at least one secondary fluid passage; and rupturing the barrier.

32. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein directing the physically alterable bonding material through the secondary fluid passage includes blocking the at least one fluid passage through the earth removal member.

33. – 36. Cancelled.

Please add the following new claims:

37. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising opening the at least one secondary fluid passage.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein opening the at least one secondary fluid passage comprises:

providing a barrier across the at least one secondary fluid passage; and
rupturing the barrier.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein rupturing the barrier comprises increasing fluid pressure on one side of the barrier to a level sufficient to rupture the barrier.

40. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the at least one secondary passage is opened when the physically alterable bonding material reaches the location of the at least one secondary passage after flowing the physically alterable bonding material through the drill string and into the annulus.

41. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the physically alterable bonding material comprises cement.

42. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the earth removal member is a drill bit.

43. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein directing the physically alterable bonding material through the secondary fluid passage includes blocking the at least one fluid passage through the earth removal member.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein blocking the at least one fluid passage through the earth removal member comprises:

providing a ball seat positioned in intersection with the at least one fluid passage;
and

selectively positioning a ball on the ball seat and in a blocking position over the at least one fluid passage.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprises providing the ball to the ball seat from a location remote therefrom.

46. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein directing the physically alterable bonding material into the annulus through the at least one secondary fluid passage comprises:

providing a moveable barrier intermediate the at least one secondary passage and the annulus; and

moving the moveable barrier to allow the physically alterable bonding material to flow through the at least one secondary passage.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the moveable barrier comprises:

a sleeve positionable over an element of the drill string and slidably positionable with respect thereto; and

at least one pin interconnecting the sleeve and the element of the drill string.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising providing a piston integral with the sleeve; and using hydrostatic pressure to urge the piston to open the at least one secondary passage to communicate with the annulus.

49. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising providing a float shoe intermediate the location where the physically alterable bonding material is introduced into the interior of the drill string and the at least one secondary passage; and

positioning a float collar in the float shoe, thereby preventing flow of the physically alterable bonding material from the location between the drill string and borehole to the interior of the drill string.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein positioning the float collar is undertaken during the flowing of the physically alterable bonding material into the annulus.

51. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein positioning the float collar is undertaken after the flowing of the physically alterable bonding material into the annulus is completed.

52. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

providing at least one additional secondary passage intermediate the lower terminus of the borehole and a surface location;

cementing the borehole at a location adjacent to the terminus of the borehole;

further directing the physically alterable bonding material down the drill string;

and

directing the physically alterable bonding material through the additional secondary passage.